

**REMARKS**

The office action of June 27, 2007, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over European Publication No. 0075448 to McKee in view of the patent to Fries.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, applicant has canceled claims 1-4, and added new claims 6-10.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, both references have been discussed in prior amendments and those comments are incorporated herein by reference. The following additional comments are also provided. Fries only shows one knife pair. A combination of Fries and McKee only teaches the first 8 lines of claim 5. McKee discloses a double bladed shear. The blades of the presently claimed invention have a different fastening than the blades of

McKee. In McKee the blade carriers are identical in form. The blade 4 rests on the left side against a projection and the blade 5 rests on the right side against a projection. The upper pair of blades and the lower pair of blades are fastened by a threaded clamping element. During cutting or cropping a strip on blade is pressed against the clamping element.

According to the present invention, the left upper blade 3 is fastened to a projection 14 and the right upper blade 4 is fastened to a projection 13. The fastening of each blade is separate from the other blade. An exchange, and in particular a loosening, of only one blade is possible. In McKee, on the other hand, both blades are loosened by loosening the clamping arrangement. It is not possible to exchange only one pair of blades in McKee, as in the presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, contrary to McKee, in the presently claimed invention the lower knife is fastened to only one projection 15. In this way the projection is between the blades and can support the blades during cutting/cropping. In McKee, the support is provided by the clamping elements. This means that the screws take up a large part of the applied force. In the present invention the bearing surfaces 18, 19 are formed on the lower blade holder 2,

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while in McKee the bearing surfaces are formed separate from a screwed-in clamping element. The combination of Fries and McKee does not teach the presently claimed invention as discussed above.

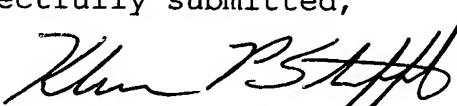
In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 29, 2007.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Klaus P. Stoffel".

Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: October 29, 2007